

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 38

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 104

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 38—Relative to women in military service for America.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 12, 1997.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 38, Alpert. Women in military service for America.

This measure would commend the achievements of women in the military and recognize the construction of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Arlington, Virginia.

WHEREAS, The people of California have a special affinity for, and are greatly indebted to, the myriad brave men and women in the United States military who serve and have served to protect and defend our precious freedom; and

WHEREAS, Nearly two million women have served in military roles since the United States of America was founded; and

WHEREAS, In 1948 the Women's Armed Services Integration Act gave women a permanent place in the armed forces, where they have served with honor alongside America's servicemen in peacetime and in conflicts, including those in Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, and Desert Storm; and

WHEREAS, The achievements of women in military service have gone unrecognized until now, overlooked in history books and unrecognized by the public; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress has authorized the construction of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial, which is currently being built at the ceremonial entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from the Lincoln Memorial; and

WHEREAS, The memorial, to be completed and dedicated in October 1997, will include a hall of honor, where the names of women who died in combat, were POWs, or won high military decorations will be prominently displayed, and a large piece of marble that is a "sister block" to that used for the Tomb of the Unknowns; and

WHEREAS, The Women in Military Service for America Memorial will be the first major national memorial in the country to honor all women who have defended America throughout its history; and

WHEREAS, Women in Military Service for America (WIMSA) Memorial Foundation, Inc., is seeking a contribution from the State of California, in the amount of one dollar for each of the 162,000

women veterans in the state, to complete the portion of the memorial dedicated to women veterans from this state; and

WHEREAS, California has a responsibility to support this memorial and to make the California public aware of the memorial and museum, a facility designed to educate its visitors about the contribution of women in maintaining freedom; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the memorial is to recognize all women who have served in the armed forces—past, present, and future; document the experiences of women and tell their stories of service, sacrifice, and achievement; make their contributions a visible part of American history; illustrate their partnership with men in the defense of the nation; and inspire others as role models; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Members wish to take this opportunity to honor the women veterans of the state who have nobly fought alongside the men in military service, and who are deserving of the recognition and the public memorial honoring their service with the construction of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial.

